


DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT

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TO: Network Service Providers
FROM: Lloyd Throne, Director 
DATE: July 20, 2006
SUBJECT: Disaster Preparedness Survey

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, it was primarily the low income, homeless, elderly and disabled, with no place to go and no one to help. This vulnerable population was the face of Katrina and is a wake-up call for Community Action Agencies to be prepared to serve their clients when a catastrophic event occurs.

Our clients deal with disaster every day and they depend on the hope and dignity that your agency offers. The need for your services will be magnified in the event of a major disaster here in California. This State has had its share of disasters from, earthquakes, floods, fires, freezes, droughts, civil unrests, pandemic flu's and terrorism.

The Governor of California recently passed Executive Order S-04-06, which directs all state agencies to develop disaster preparedness plans. It also focuses on how to better utilize non-profit and private sector capabilities and is promoting the integration of non-profit and private sectors into the emergency services system. Agency Secretary Kim Belshe, California Health and Human Services (CHHS) re-instituted the Disaster Coordinating Council. This council's focus is to work with the agencies to become better prepared, coordinate resources, and have the plans in place in the event of a major disaster. CSD sits on this council and has touted the experience and expertise of our Community Action Agencies.

CSD is also required through Executive Order W-9-91 to provide resources and personnel to the Office of Emergency Services (OES) in the event of a major disaster in California. OES has issued an Administrative Order for CSD to provide an updated and accurate listing of CSD's network and the services they can provide during an emergency.

CSD is committed to supporting the efforts of our network in disaster preparedness. In order to do so, we need current and accurate information to market, plan and show the strengths and capabilities of our network of service providers on a statewide level.

CSD has developed a Disaster Preparedness Survey. This survey will be used to compile disaster preparedness, response, and recovery information from each of your agencies. It will highlight what your agency's capabilities are in time of a disaster. Your current capabilities will be shared with the Office of Emergency Services (OES), California Homeland Security, California Health and Human Services, and the Department of Social Services (DSS). This survey will also show where the need is for additional resources, which CSD will use to develop a disaster initiative concept and apply for State and Federal funding.

Please respond to this survey and complete as many questions as you can. We would like the surveys back as soon as possible, but no later than August 15, 2006. Please e-mail your surveys back to CSD's Disaster Coordinator John Martinez at Jmartinez@csd.ca.gov, or you can fax them to him at (916) 341-4294. I believe that CSD and our network of service providers are positioned to take a more vital role in collaborating with state and local government in providing the needed services and having a direct impact on the low income population that is the most vulnerable during a disaster.